

531 m. 3.
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STRAIT of ALLASS

by

Mr. George Robertson,* in the *Van Sittart*

1780.

THIS STRAIT extends 16 Leagues NNE and SSW; the *Island SUMBAWA*, on the *East*, is very high and rugged; the inland hills covered with wood, Its *SW Point*, which makes the *South Entrance* of the STRAIT, extends about 4 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ leagues farther to the South than the *SE Point* of *LOMBOCK*, which is moderately high with *white cliffs*, along Its *South Coast*, for a great way to the Westward: The *Point* itself very much resembling the *South Foreland*.

In coming into this STRAIT from the Southward it is best to keep nearest the *LOMBOCK Shoar* where you will sooner get into *Soundings* and much better $\rightarrow$ ground than on the *SUMBAWA Shoar*, which we found *rocky* and *steep* to, all thro' the STRAIT.

When the *SE Point* of *LOMBOCK* bears WNW and the *SW Point* of *SUMBAWA* SEbS you will then have ground between 64 and 70 fath. *Coarse Sand* and *Coral* distance off the *LOMBOCK Shoar* $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 miles, where, in case of its falling calm, or the *Tide* setting against you, you may come to, with a *Kedge* or
light

* Mr. Robertson went out 4th and returned 2^d Mate of the *Van Sittart*.

Light Anchor very fine holding ground: There are *Soundings* a little farther to the Southward and more over on the *SUMBAWA* shoar, but very deep water 80 and 90 fath. rocky bottom.

There lyes off the *pitch* of the *Point* of *LOMBOCK* a *small* *Rock* above water, not unlike a high *Canoe* without a *sail*, distant from the *Main* about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile. When you come to round the *Point* you will then open a *very fine deep Bay*, which shall call *Lombock Bay*, in *It* good $\rightarrow$ ground and well sheltered from the *Southerly Winds*, which we found to blow very strong thro' the day, setting in with it a very strong *Tide*: The *soundings* are regular from 55 gradually decreasing, as you approach the *N^o* part of the *Bay* and the *LOMBOCK* shoar, to any depth of water you please, *fine stiff sandy bottom*, having 5 fath. two cables length from the *Rocks*, which extend along shoar, for several miles, to the *Northward* and *Southward* of *Bally Town*; They are mostly dry at *low water* and distant from the *Beach* about two cables length: Inside of them is a *fine sandy bottom*, where the large *Malay Prows* lay to take in their *Cargos*, chiefly *Rice* and *Paddy* for the adjacent *Islands*, saw a great many of the *Nutmeg* and *Cloves* for Sale, but I believe not of their own production.

We found the *Inhabitants* a very friendly and fair-dealing People, as any ever met with, in *Eastern Countries*; or, indeed, any where else,

Bally

* Mr. Robertson calls it *Allas Bay*, but in the *Charts* *Allas* is placed on the *Sambawa* side.

Bally Town is delightfully situated on the side of the small river where we watered, it being exceedingly convenient for that purpose, having only about 100 yards to roll your casks to where they are filled; your Boat may lay close to the beach, if Flood-Tide, abreast of where you roll your cask to; You must take care and get *without* the Reef before low-water, otherwise must remain 'till *Quarter Flood* again.

The *Ebbing* and *Flowing* of the TIDE *in-shoar* is regular, rising in *Spring-Tides* 12 or 13 Feet; *High-Water*, Full and *Change*, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 o'clock.

At this *Place* were plentifully supplied with every refreshment that's necessary after a long Voyage, such as *Bullocks*, *Buffaloes*, *Goats*, *Fowls*, *Ducks*, remarkable fine *Rice*, *Sagoe-flour*, &c. &c. *Fruit* of all sorts exceedingly reasonable *Buffaloes* were 4 and 5 Dollars and *Bullocks* 7. They are fond of *red-cloth*, *muskets*, *knives*, &c. but won't barter their *Cattle* for them: however, cheap large cutlery is the best and readiest way to procure *Fowls*, *Fruit* or any thing in the small way.

In the *South Entrance* of the STRAIT, the *current* or *Tide* is very irregular, both in respect to *It's Course* and *times* of *shifting*; It is, however, pretty strong which ever way it setts, 2, 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ Knots $\frac{1}{2}$ hour when strongest: when you are fairly entered into the STRAIT, you have then a *regular Current* setting NN E and SSW all thro' the STRAIT, but by far
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the strongest to the *Northward* and generally a great deal longer, than that which sets to the *Southward*.

The *Peak* of LOMBOCK is situated on the *NE part* of the *Island*, it is a very remarkable high *double-peaked Mountain* which may be seen at Sea 24 or 25 leagues: When off the *Mouth* of the STRAIT of LOMBOCK 6 or 7 leagues, it is then very plain to be seen, topping over the *Western High-Land* of the *Island*.

Half way thro' this STRAIT of ALLASS lyes a *low Island*, on the LOMBOCK Shoar, off which runs out a *Reef* to the SEward about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile from It: The STRAIT is *narrowest* at this Place, formed by a *cluster* of *Islands* on the *Sumbawa Shoar*, which project a good way out, they are *steep to*, and *tollerably high*; in passing *Rocky Island*, distant $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles had 36. 36. 37. 40 and 50 fathoms, and when a little to the *Northward* of It, *no more Soundings* all through, on either Shoar, with 100 fathoms line.

Know of no danger in this STRAIT, but what is perceptible so that they are without doubt the *clearest*, *safest*, and *best Passage* of all the STRAITS to the *Eastward*.

G. ROBERTSON.